

Remarks/Arguments

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed April 28, 2004. In that Office Action the Examiner first objected to the specification listing prior art references without an Information Disclosure Statement. Along with this Amendment and Response Applicant submits an IDS identifying the prior art references discussed in the specification.

The Examiner also objected to the title as too lengthy and suggested "Clip for Surfboard Leash." Applicant amends the title exactly as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner next objected to the substitute specification filed 5/24/2004 as missing the brief description of the drawings section, and the abstract including personal information of the Examiner. The substitute specification submitted herewith resolves these problems.

Finally, the Examiner rejected the claims under Section 112 as failing to adequately define the invention, and further rejected the claims under Section 102 as anticipated by white U.S. Patent No. 5,230,489. These rejections are believed rendered moot by the new claims being presented.

Additionally submitted is a power of attorney/change of address for the application.

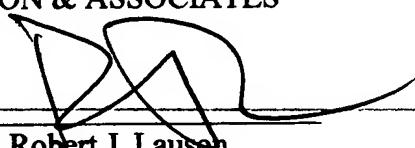
Applicant requests that a timely notice of allowance be issued in this case. Please contact the undersigned with any questions or comments.

No additional fees are believed owed. If any fees are owed, the Patent Office is authorized to charge Applicant's Representative's deposit account no. 50-3116.

Respectfully submitted,

LAUSON & ASSOCIATES

By _____


Robert J. Lauson
Reg. No. 41,930
Tel.: (310) 546-8170
Fax: (310) 546-8171
Email: bob@lauson.com

Clip for Surfboard Leash

Specification

[TITLE OF INVENTION]

Snap-on leash holder/clip which is affixed to a surfboard leash and clamps the leash onto another section of itself to prevent unraveling and also performs the exact same function on any power or extension cord.]

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority over U.S. provisional patent application [#] number 60/434,205, [confirmation #5110] filed 12/19/2002, the entire contents of which are being incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates generally to a snap-on leash/cord holder, in particular, an inexpensive removable device that keeps a surfboard leash in place so the leash will not unravel while wrapped around a surfboard.

2. Description of the Related Art

Despite the many different devices to retract surfboard leashes, [power cords, extension] cords, ropes[,] or hoses,[etc., the design] those solutions are more complicated than this invention. The purpose of [this] the device of the present invention is to facilitate ease of handling and/or transporting a surfboard with a leash [()by creating a simple means of affixing the leash [or cord] to itself after it has been wrapped around

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

the surfboard so that the cord does not unravel[)]. This invention is an unobtrusive, non-mechanical accessory that in no way affects the performance capabilities of the leash, power cord, rope, etc. to which it is attached.

In the case of inventions pertaining specifically to surfboards, existing patents are designed to be integrated leash systems as in the case of Patent [#] No. 4,938,725: “Retractable surfboard leash”; Patent [#] No. 5,490,805: “Retractable surfboard leash”;

Patent [#] No. 5,938,492: “Reel for a surfboard leash.” These inventions are all mechanical designs utilizing spring-loaded, moving parts. In all of these patents the surfboard leash becomes a permanent component of the invention. It also should be noted that all of these patents are meant to enhance the performance of the leash while the surfboard is being used. While those inventions may be useful in the ocean, the need remains for a device that locks the leash down when it is not attached to the surfer.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Broadly, this invention allows a surfer to wrap the surfboard leash around the surfboard and use the invention to clip/hold the leash in place so it will not unravel. This device does not interfere with the performance of the leash or the performance of the surfer. When used on other cords, this device does not create a performance issue either.

This device offers an improvement over other leash/cord devices. Other devices interfere with the performance of the surfer while in the performance position.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1a. [Shows first cylinder in open position via tab/hinge with second cylinder attached.] is a perspective view of the device showing the body in an open position.

FIG. 1b. [Shows first cylinder in locked/closed position with second cylinder attached.] is a perspective view showing the body in a closed/locked position.

FIG. 1c. [Shows side view of first cylinder in locked/closed position with second cylinder attached giving it a "C" shape.] is a side view of the body in the closed/locked position.

FIG. 1d. [Shows side view of first cylinder in open position via tab/hinge with second cylinder attached giving it a "C" shape.] is a side view of the body in the open position.

FIG. 2a. [Shows overview of first cylinder in open position with second cylinder attached.] is a top view of the body in the open position.

FIG. 2b. [Shows lengthwise side view of first cylinder in locked/closed position via tab/hinge with second cylinder attached.] is a front view of the body in the closed/locked position.

FIG. 3a. [Shows first cylinder in open position via tab/hinge with surfboard leash fitted inside the first cylinder before closing tab/hinge.] is a perspective view of the body in the open position with a surfboard leash inside the body with arrows indicating how the body is closed.

FIG. 3b. [Shows first cylinder in closed position around surfboard leash via tab/hinge.] is a perspective view showing the body in the closed/locked position with the surfboard leash inside.

FIG. 3c. [Shows portion of the surfboard leash being fitted into the open side of the second cylinder.] is a perspective view showing a portion of the surfboard leash being put inside the outer sleeve of the device.

FIG. 3d. [Shows portion of the surfboard leach in finished position into the open side of the second cylinder.] is a perspective view showing the portion of the surfboard leach inside the outer sleeve of the device.

FIG. 4a. [Shows the surfboard leash in stored position where it is wrapped around the surfboard with the first cylinder attached and a portion of the leash fitted into the open end of the second cylinder.] is a perspective view showing the surfboard leash in a stored position where it is wrapped around the surfboard with the device attached and a portion of the leash inside the outer sleeve of the device.

FIG. 4b. [Shows close up view of figure 4a.] is an enlargement of a part of figure 4A.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION

This snap-on surfboard leash holder/clip [is] **10** includes a hollow plastic [cylinder], body 12 of a generally cylindrical shape which is split down the middle and into two half cylinders 14, 16 can be opened lengthwise and closed and snapped shut repeatedly via a tab/hinge configuration. [A second cylindrical shape is molded parallel to the above described cylinder in a manner similar to a double barrel shotgun. The second cylinder is open lengthwise, giving the barrel a "C" shape when viewing it from either end.] When the two half cylinders 14, 16 are opened relative one another, a "C" shape is evident when viewing the device from either end (see figure 1D). The purpose of the open [sided barrel] "C" is to enable a surfboard leash [to snap into] L to be placed

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

inside the opening of the body 12. This surfboard leash clip 10 is designed to be used when the leash L is in storage position, not when the surfboard and leash are being operated. To unclip the device 10 from the surfboard leash L [from the second cylinder] one simply pulls the leash L with minimal pressure at or near the [point of the second cylinder] tabs 18, 20 holding the two halves 14, 16 together and the leash L will release freely from the [second cylinder.] device 10.

As discussed above, this invention provides an inexpensive device 10 which will allow a surfboard leash L to stay affixed while the leash L is wrapped around a surfboard for storage or transporting purposes. The device 10 does not interfere with the performance of the surfer while the surfboard is being used in the water. This device 10 simply attaches to the surfboard leash L via a reusable hinge 22/tab 18, 20 configuration and attaches to another part of the leash L simply by applying slight pressure to snap the leash L into the [half-barrel opening] outer sleeve 24 portion of the device. The outer sleeve portion 24 has a pair of somewhat flexible upstanding legs 26, 28 that are spaced apart slightly less than the diameter of a conventional surfboard leash L. Advantageously the upstanding legs 26, 28 are of sufficient length to retain the leash L but no longer than necessary so as to reduce the bulk of the device 10, and the upstanding legs 26, 28 have rounded corners 30 to prevent inadvertently injuries to the user. [This] The device 10 is constructed of injection-molded plastic parts (in one piece, requiring no assembly) and contains no moving parts. This device 10 can be used to provide the same function on other type of cord and ropes.

Use of the device 10 is as follows. The [tab/slot cylinder] device 10 is opened so that it can be placed on the leash L wherever [one] the user prefers, then when it is

snapped shut it remains tightly affixed around that particular section of the leash L. The body 12 of the device 10 is prevented from slipping along the leash L by an opposing pair of end caps 33, 34 that tightly grip the leash L. After the leash L is wrapped around the surfboard (perpendicular to the length of the board [not end to end] the section of the leash L where the [cylinder] device 10 is attached can then snap onto any adjacent section of the same leash L essentially securing the leash L to itself, thus preventing the leash L from unraveling until the [owner] user so desires. [It] The leash L can then be quickly pulled free so that [the leash] it can be unwound for use in the water. The snap-on [cylinder] device 10 can also be easily removed in order to place it on a different section of the leash L (as accords the preference of the [owner] user) or in the event that the [owner] user wishes to place the device 10 on another leash L entirely. [Note: this invention was designed specifically for use on a surfboard leash but it is not limited exclusively to that sole purpose. It could also be effectively used on many types of power cords, extension cords, and possibly even rope, etc.]

[SURFBOARD LEASH CLIP/HOLDER]

[ABSTRACT] OF THE DISCLOSURE

This removable snap-on plastic device [cylinder with a half pipe barrel molded parallel] can be affixed to a surfboard leash [or any power cord, rope, etc.,] allowing the open [barrel side] outer sleeve portion to clamp onto any adjacent section of the leash [or cord] to prevent it from unraveling[. This device represents] representing significant improvements over other similar devices. This device does not interfere with the

LAST AVAILABLE COPY

performance of a surfer [and] nor [does not] affect the performance of a surfer [and does not] nor affect the performance of the surfboard leash.

[Inventor:

Charles Edwin Snyder

Correspondence Name and Address:

| P O Box 257, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254]



BEST AVAILABLE COPY

CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelop addressed as follows:

Mail Stop NON-FEE AMEND.
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on Oct. 28, 2004 at Oct. 28,2004
Robert J. Lauson, Reg. No. 41,930 Date

BEST AVAILABLE COPIE

Amendments to the Drawings:

Submitted herewith are two (2) sheets of drawings including numerous reference numerals added to each of the figures. No other changes were made to the drawings.
